

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

The media in this country is one of the primary avenues available to dispute and criticize our government and powerful interests such as corporations. Obviously there are many times when the citizens of this country need a public venue for criticism. Our government and corporations do not always have the citizens best interest in mind. Big media lives within the realm of the corporate world and is unable and uninterested in responding to issues not in their best interest. We need to keep media smaller and out of the hands of the few huge powerful corporations. Our democracy is at stake.